



Building Consensus Around Downtown

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Organizational Scale → *District Scale*



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What do we
mean by
consensus?



Consensus

- I **participated**
- My voice was **heard** among many others
- I heard the perspectives of **others**
- We worked through **conflicts**
- I may not have gotten exactly what I wanted*
 - But **we agreed** upon a decision
 - And I can **support** the decision
 - And **so can everyone else**



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← I don't fully agree, but I can support it. I can live with it. YES! →



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What are some of
the **things you do** to
achieve consensus?



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How do you know
when you have
consensus in a
community meeting?



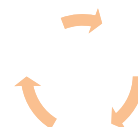
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What are some
barriers to building
consensus?



Build TRUST

- **Manage your contribution**
 - Listen, acknowledge, accept other truths, take responsibility. *Are you willing?*
- **Engage in Difficult Conversations**
 - State the obvious—there's a lack of trust
 - Express your desire & ask for their help
 - Ask questions & listen
 - Set new paths
 - Agree to feedback
- **Demonstrate trust through your actions**



the VISION

- A powerful tool for *stepping back the conversation* to **manage conflict**.
- **Collaboratively** developed
- A **touchstone**
- **Common ground for the collaborative** as values statement, mission statement, approved workplan are for the organization.



the VISION

- Summons **specific images** as opposed to delivering vague language
- May tie to specific **transformational projects**
- May tie to specific **strategies**
- **Long term** and may have **shorter term components, relevancy**



the **VISION** exercise

- Write down the quick version of your downtown vision (5 min).
- Share around the table. (10 min).



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OTHER TOOLS

- facilitation training
- the group itself
- technological tools
- preparation
- planning with a partner

